



EXHIBIT 7
DATE 2-10-09
HB 383

Mississippi State
University
Extension

Catch-A-Dream Foundation, Inc.

February 10, 2009

House Fish, Wildlife and Parks Committee
Montana State Legislature
Helena, MT

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is with great pleasure and appreciation that I write this letter of thanks for your consideration of HB 383, titled "Revise fish & game laws re: free license for youth with life-threatening illness" sponsored by Representative Elsie Arntzen.

As I am sure has been elucidated by Rep. Arntzen and others, including the Montana Outfitter and Guides Association (MOGA), the current Montana law, though well intended and commendable, severely restricts the opportunity for legitimately qualified youth to benefit from the amazing outdoor resources your state has to offer. Regrettably, once a child's "life-threatening illness" has progressed to a point where it is deemed "terminal" he or she, in most cases, is far too debilitated to participate in a hunting or fishing experience. The proposed re-definition of the qualifications for special big game licenses beyond the strict medical confines of "terminal illness" to that of "life-threatening illness" will ensure that we are jointly able to provide once in a lifetime experiences to these children in a timely fashion before their medical condition deteriorates to the point they are not physically able to travel.

Outfitters and guides across Montana stand ready and eager to assist in making a difference in the lives of these "Youth with precious little time to lose," but they and we have been hindered by the extreme rigor of qualifying a child under the existing statutes. The "Big Hearts Under the Big Sky Program" established by MOGA, provides a conduit through which the outfitters and guides are matched with opportunities through the National Partner Organizations to reach out to these children and families. The last link in this innovative and highly significant partnering chain is passage of HB 383; the proverbial "three-legged stool" will be complete, comprising the three stabilizing legs consisting of MOGA, Partner Organizations such as Catch-A-Dream and Hunt of a Lifetime, and the citizens and government of Montana.

On behalf of the children and families that we and other organizations serve, as well as the outfitters, citizens and many others in your state who will be blessed by these efforts, we Thank You, and applaud you, for your leadership in this regard!

Sincerely,

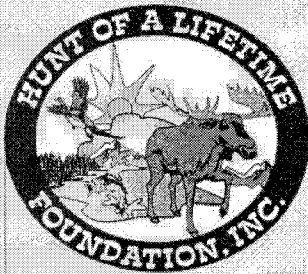
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Making Dreams Come True

"...and whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive if you have faith." - Matthew 21:22

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To: All House, Fish, Wildlife and Parks committee members

Thank you all for taking your time this afternoon to hear our "life threatening" bill. I am hoping that the weather in Helena is as gorgeous as it is in the Bitterroot Valley today.

This bill is very important to all of us at "Hunt of a Lifetime" for we can reach out to more children with "life threatening" illnesses and we will not have the disappointment of telling a child and his family that we would have to relocate them to a different state.

An example was a trip that came across my desk last spring for 2 young men, Shawn Scott and John H Floyd. John was deemed terminal by standards of his Dr. for he has progressive Cerebellar Ataxia which is a brain disorder. Shawn's condition was deemed "life threatening" for he has Coronary AV Fistula which is a heart disease. Not only are these 2 young men cousins, they also spent a lot of time at St. Jude's together and walked together down a path that I hope that none of us will ever have to walk.

When I contacted the families they asked if they could do their trip together and I made that promise. We were unable to provide Shawn with an Exceptional Youth tag so we re-scheduled their hunt with one of our Outfitters in Oregon. They were both successful in their hunts so all worked out in the end but we strive to provide the children with their wishes, and their wishes were "Muley deer in Montana"

Another road block that I have encountered is the age limit in Montana. The change from "under 17" to "under 18" would give us more opportunity to help these children. It gives us another year to work with. I now have an 18 year old young man that wishes to hunt in Milk River, Montana. I have to make a decision to either purchase a non-resident hunting license at \$1500 or send him to Arizona.

Our goal is to see that any child with a "Life Threatening" illness, under the age of 21 is successful in accomplishing their dreams and goals. These children and their families have far more character that I will ever have. It is a pleasure for me to work with these families for it makes me a more compassionate and caring person. I also makes my trials seem trivial.

Thank you again for your time and consideration of this bill and go forward in your life knowing that you have touched the life of a child.....

God Bless,

Mindy McKee
Montana Ambassador
Hunt of a Lifetime.org